

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A method of treating or ameliorating chronic heart failure or acute heart failure in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound wherein the compound is a bile acid that is able to reduce the production, absorption and/or the effect of the endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide; LPS) in human blood.~~

A method for determining, ameliorating, and treating heart failure in a human patient, the method comprising the steps of measuring the level of a cytokine or an inflammatory marker or its production in the blood of the patient, and if any such level is elevated, administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a bile acid selected from the group consisting of chenodeoxycholic acid, ursodeoxycholic acid, dehydrocholic acid, and cholic acid.

2. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the heart failure includes endotoxin-mediated immune activation.~~

The method according to claim 1, wherein the heart failure is an acute and chronic congestive heart failure due to cardiomyopathy of unknown reason, coronary artery disease, valvular disease, hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy, viral myocarditis or genetic cardiomyopathy or dilated cardiomyopathy.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid is any one of ursodesoxycholic acid, chenodeoxycholic acid, dehydrocholic acid, cholic acid and deoxycholic acid.~~

The method according to claim 1, wherein the marker is selected from the group consisting of endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide), TNF α and CD14.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid
~~compound~~ is able to inhibit the response by a cell to endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide;
LPS).
18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17 wherein the bile acid
~~compound~~ is able to decrease the cytokine production by a cell in response to endotoxin
(lipopolysaccharide; LPS).
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid
~~compound~~ is able to reduce the permeability of the gut wall to bacteria and/or
endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide; LPS).
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid
~~compound~~ is administered orally.

26. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid
~~compound~~ is administered intravenously.

27. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid
~~compound~~ is administered rectally.

28-42 (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)

49. (Canceled)

50. (Canceled)

51-52 (Canceled)

53. (Currently amended) ~~A method of treating or ameliorating body wasting or cachexia in a patient with liver cirrhosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic renal failure, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound wherein the compound is a bile acid that is able to reduce the production, absorption and/or the effect of the endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide; LPS) in human blood.~~

The method according to claim 1, wherein the bile acid administered to the patient is ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA)

54. (Canceled)

55. (Canceled)

56. (Canceled)

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57. (Canceled)

58. (Canceled)

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61 (Canceled)

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72. (Canceled)

73. (Canceled)

74. (Canceled)

75. (Canceled)

76. (Canceled)

77. (Canceled)

78. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising bile acid and a diuretic.

79. (Canceled)

80. (Canceled)

81. (Canceled)

82. (Currently amended) A method of reducing elevated levels of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) in human blood of patients by administering an amount of bile acid selected from the group consisting of ursodesoxycholic acid, chenodeoxycholic acid, dehydrocholic acid, and cholic acid effective to reduce the elevated levels of LPS in human blood of patients.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82, wherein the bile acid reduces elevated levels of LPS in human blood of patients with cachexia due to liver cirrhosis.

84. (Canceled)

85. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 82, wherein the bile acid is administered intravenously.

86. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 82, wherein the bile acid is administered rectally.

87. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 82, wherein the bile acid is administered orally.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefore. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.